

Standards Committee

A meeting of Standards Committee was held on Thursday, 17th June, 2010.

Present: Mr F W Hayes (Chairman), Mr M Armstrong, Mrs E Chapman (Independent Representative), Cllr Aidan Cockerill (vice Cllr Sherris), Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Bill Noble, R. Mosely (Substitute Parish Representative) and C. Nestor (Substitute Independent Representative)

Officers: D. Bond, M. Henderson and A. Squires

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Paul Baker and C.V. Algie

S **Declarations of Interest**

23/10

There were no declarations of interest.

S **Attendance at Town/Parish Council Meetings**

24/10

The Committee was provided with an assessment sheet for a meeting of Long Newton Parish Council held on 8 June 2010. The sheet had been completed by Tom Bowman who had attended the meeting on behalf of the Committee.

Members considered the assessment sheets/comments and agreed that there were no areas of concern.

Members did not raise any issues relating to the format/content of the assessment sheet or guidance notes.

RESOLVED that

1. the information be noted.
2. feedback, as discussed, be provided to the Parish Clerk.

S **Observing Local Strategic Partnership Meetings**

25/10

The Committee considered a report relating to its members' attendance at Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) meetings, to report back to the Committee on what they observed regarding conduct and procedure.

The Committee was provided with a list of three forthcoming meetings of the LSP. It was noted that members needed to be identified for at least one two of the meetings. Any member able to attend one or other of the meetings was asked to contact the Council's Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED that Members inform the Council's Monitoring Officer of outstanding meeting dates which they are able to attend.

S **Messages from the Standards Committee**

26/10

The Committee was reminded that it had agreed to publish messages relating to

areas of its work.

Details of messages published since the last meeting were provided:-

- a note signposting members to a guide produced by the Standards Board for England relating to the use of social networking. This had been e mailed to all Council Members; Town/Parish Council Clerks; and placed on the Council's website.

- an article in Stockton News highlighting the Committee's Annual Report 2009/2010.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

S **Local Assessment - Case Studies**

27/10

The Committee considered a case study relating to prejudicial interests. Members discussed the circumstances surrounding the case study and provided views on what decisions they might make.

S **Information/Discussion Items**

28/10

Member of the Committee considered the following items:-

- Parliamentary General Election - Coalition Government - Developments. Members noted elements of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill referred to in the Queen's Speech. Particular reference was made to the proposed abolition of the Standards Board regime. A copy of a letter issued by the Standards Board for England's Chair, providing an initial reponse to that proposal, was provided. The Monitoring Officer explained that he would keep the Committee updated on developments.

- New Executive Arrangements - Update. Members were reminded that the Council had decided not to undertake a referendum on this issue, but further consultation would take place asking for views on each executive model. A pack was being prepared and would go to all Members of the Council prior to being posted to residents. Following the consultation, responses would be assessed and a report presented to Cabinet and Council.

Standards in Public Life - Trust, Transparency and Care. Members received a copy of Sir Christopher Kelly's speech to the LSE Annual Health and Social Care Lecture.

RESOLVED that the information be noted

S **Standards Committee Forward Plan 2010/2011**

29/10

Members were provided with a new version of its Forward Plan 2010/2011.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

